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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, we come to You. No other help have we, for You have been our refuge in ages past and our hope for years to come. Sustain our lawmakers during these challenging times. Forgive us when we make You our last option, depending first upon our own ingenuity to save us. Lord, give our Senators the wisdom to seek first Your kingdom, striving to remain within the center of Your will. Send out Your light to lead them to a destination that will glorify You.

Thank You for smiling upon America, blessing this land we love from the reservoir of Your great bounty. Continue to lead us in the way of peace and unity.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 20, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican Leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans the final half.

Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. We will debate the sexual assault issue for up to 6 hours today. I hope we will reach an agreement on the ability to vote on those two amendments. We have worked very hard on arriving at a point where we can debate this issue. I hope we can do that. I think it would be very appropriate to have that issue resolved as quickly as possible.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1737

Mr. REID. I am told that S. 1737 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1737) to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in recent weeks we have seen a lot of hand-wringing on the other side of the aisle over ObamaCare—a little shock here, a little dismay there, and more than a little feigned outrage. What we haven't seen, of course, is anything even approaching a good answer as to why the President told the American people one thing and then did the other or a solution to the national crisis of millions—millions—of Americans, some with very serious medical conditions heading into the holiday season having just been told they would lose their health care plans.

The folks who voted for this law and the President whose name it bears did everything they could to keep these folks in the dark about the realities of ObamaCare for more than 3 years—3 long years. But the problems we are seeing shouldn't come as news to anyone, least of all our Democratic friends, because what we have seen are the utterly predictable consequences of ObamaCare.

The fact is a lot of folks warned about these kinds of consequences coming to pass, but the President's political machine just steamrolled anybody who spoke up—ran right over them. They laughed it all off, dismissed everyone else as naysayers and cynics, when all the while they basically knew—they knew—we were right.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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